THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Surinder Nath Committee on the System of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Groups 'A' Services has recommended that an effective system of screening officers should be put in place so that in-service officers who lack demonstrated competence, or who are unqualified, or of doubtful morale of financial integrity or who are in unacceptably poor health can be screened out. Officers screened out should be informed of the fact and advised that they may, if they wish, avail of a voluntary separation package. As regards reduction in age limit for entering into Government service, the Alagh Committee has recommended maximum entry age to Civil Services at 26 for general candidates while Hota Committee has recommended its reduction to 24 years with existing relaxation for the OBCs and SC/ST candidates. The Government is examining these recommendations. No decision has sofar been taken.

Administrative Reform Commission

3184. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are set to constitute an Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) with the mandate to review the functioning of civil services in the country;

(b) if so, how it would be different from Surinder Committee, B.N. Yagandhar Panel and Hota Committee; and

(c) when was Hota Committee report submitted and what were its recommendations and whether its recommendations were implemented in toto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. Surinder Nath Committee went into the system of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Group 'A' Services. Yugandhar Committee was set up to review 'In-service training of IAS officers' and the Hota Committee was set up to examine the Civil Services Reforms covering the All India Services and the Organized Group 'A' Central Services.

(c) The Hota Committee submitted its report on 30 July, 2004. It has made 64 main recommendations on (i) making the Civil Service responsive and citizen-friendly, transparent, accountable and ethical in its actions and interface with the people; (ii) making the Civil Service e-governance friendly; (iii) putting a premium on intellectual growth of civil servants and on upgrading their domain knowledge; (iv) protecting the Civil Service against wrongful pressure exerted by administrative superiors; political executive, business interest and other vested interests; (v) changes, if any necessary, in the various All India Services Rules and Central Civil Service Rules to provide a statutory proceedings against civil servants to decentralize the process as far as practicable, and to make the disposal of such proceedings time-bound; and (vii) matters relating to health insurance, dispute resolution etc. No decision has been taken on these recommendations by the Government.

Retirement of Employees on basis of efficiency

†3185. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a scheme to retrench the Central Government Employees on the basis of their efficiency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the basis of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Surinder Nath Committee on the System of Performance Appraisal, Promotion, Empanelment and Placement for the All India Services and other Group 'A' Services has recommended that an effective system of screening officers should be put in place so that inservice officers who lack demonstrated competence, or who are unqualified, or of doubtful morale or financial integrity or who are in unacceptably poor health can be screened out. Officers screened out should be informed of the fact and advised that they may, if they wish, avail of a voluntary separation package. The Government is examining these recommendations.

Enactment of Freedom of Information Act, 2002

3186. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to the enactment of proposed amendment to the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 towards a more transparent governance;